GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2403
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
FOOD IN ANGANWADI CENTRES
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AnganwadiCentres (AWCs) are mandated to provide locally procured and freshly cooked food instead of pre-cooked food, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry/study/inspection to review the current system of distribution of nutritious meal and its quality being supplied in AWCs in each State of the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase budgetary allocation for providing fresh cooked food with an increase in nutritional content and quantity and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the cases of corruption/irregularities/black-marketing in distribution of nutritious meals under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard and to ensure supply of nutritious food to the beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) is one of the services provided at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). The details of SNP provided to different category of beneficiaries as per the norms issued on 24.02.2009 is as under:

Sl. No.	Category	Type of Food
1.	Children (0-6 months)	Exclusive Breast feeding for first 6 months of life.
2.	Children (6-36 months)	Take Home Ration containing 500 calorie of energy and 12-15 Gms. of protein in the form that is palatable to the child. It could be given in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
3.	Severely malnourished children (6-36 months)	Food supplement of 800 calories of energy and 20-25 Gms. Protein in the form of Micronutrient Fortified Food and/or Energy-dense Food as THR.
4.	Children (3-6 years)	Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 Gms. protein per child per day. Morning snack in the

		form of milk/banana/egg/ seasonal fruits etc. and Hot Cooked Meal.
5.	Severely malnourished children (3-6 years)	Additional 300 calories of energy and 8-10 Gms. of Protein (in addition to 500 calories of energy and 12-15 Gms. of protein given at AWC) in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.
5.	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Take Home Ration as food supplement of 600 calories of energy and 18-20 Gms. of protein per beneficiary per day in the form of micro-nutrient fortified food and/or energy dense food.

The calorific norms for SNP prior to 2009 were fixed since the inception of the Scheme in 1975. These calorific norms were not adequately meeting the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and Average Dietary Intake

(ADI). This issue was considered and reviewed by the Government. After due deliberations and taking into account the recommendations of experts, it was decided to revise the nutritional and feeding norms with effect from 24.2.2009, as indicated above.

As per the revised nutrition and feeding norms, the SNP should conform to the prescribed standards to ensure consistent quality and nutritive value of the intervention per serving. Besides the periodical checks by the State Governments, Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) carries out analysis of the food samples as per the prescribed nutritional norms to ensure that the prescribed standards are adhered to and the quality and nutritive value of the supplementary nutrition is maintained.

If any SNP sample is found not conforming to the standards, the lapse is immediately brought to the notice of the concerned State Government/UT Admin to take corrective measures at their end.

In order to improve the performance of ICDS, Government has also introduced 5-tier monitoring and review mechanism at different levels (National/ State/ District / Block and Anganwadi level) by involving public representatives for monitoring the status of AnganwadiCentres. Government has issued guidelines on 31.3.2011 for constitution of Monitoring & Review Committee at different levels in implementation of ICDS Scheme. As per these guidelines, State level monitoring and review committee on ICDS is required to monitor and review the issues relating to implementation of ICDS Scheme including method of delivery of supplementary nutrition etc. As per available information, 30 States/UTs have constituted the Monitoring and Supervision Committee at all levels.

(c): Under strengthening and restructuring of ICDS Scheme, approved by the Government of India in September 2012, the cost norms for supplementary nutrition under ICDS Programme have been revised as under:

Sl. No.	Category	Revised cost norms (per beneficiary per day)
1.	Children (6-72 months)	Rs.6.00
2.	Severely malnourished children (6-72 months)	Rs.9.00
3.	Pregnant women and Nursing mothers	Rs.7.00

The revised cost norms have been rolled out in three phases in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 and are effective throughout the country w.e.f. 01.4.2014.

There is no proposal to further enhance these cost norms.

(d) & (e): The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored Scheme implemented by States/UTs across the country. The responsibility for implementation of ICDS Scheme including providing supplementary nutrition and management thereof rests with States/UTs. During the last 3 years and the current year, 83 complaints regarding irregularities/

deficiencies in Supplementary Nutrition Programme were received pertaining to the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh (1), Assam (2), Bihar (5), Chhattisgarh (3), Delhi (3), Haryana (2), Jharkhand (5), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra (4), Madhya Pradesh (3), Manipur (1), Nagaland (1), Odisha (5), Rajasthan (7), Uttarakhand (1), Uttar Pradesh (38), West Bengal (1).

The complaints received in respect of irregularities / deficiencies in implementation of ICDS Scheme and in providing SNP are forwarded to concerned States/UTs for taking appropriate action. Reports on complaints which are serious in nature are sought from State Government / UT Administration.